(d) India is providing financial support, technical and regulatory guidance to the investigators for development of new biotech crops to produce novel products like pharmaceuticals, speciality and fine chemicals which have specific global market requirements.

Dilution in level of excellence in R&D institutions

3143. SHRI DARA SINGH:
SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have stated that no policy should be taken which will dilute the levels of excellence in our research and development (R&D) and educational institutions;

(b) how many projects under his Ministry in IITs and IIMs are being supported by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Department of Science and Technology and Department of Bio-Technology where he does not favour reservation policy; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to ensure that nothing should be done that will dampen India's efforts to compete in World Markets?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) The Government of India do not have a policy to dilute the levels of excellence in research and development (R&D) and educational institutions.

(b) Ministry of Science & Technology (Department of Science & Technology, Department of Biotechnology, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research) has funded about 250 R&D projects for implementation in IITs and no projects have been funded to IIMs during the last two financial years. Funding of R&D projects to IITs and R&D institutes, etc. is based on peer Review and competitive excellence and has no linkage to the reservation policy of Government of India.

(c) The Government of India have implemented several innovative programmes like Fund for Infrastructure in S&T in educational institutes, training quality manpower in advanced areas of Science & Technology, New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative (NMITLI), Small Business Innovation Research Initiative (SBIRI), Nano-Science & Technology, Initiative under the mechanism of Science and Engineering Research Council, Joint Funding of Programmes in the Pharmaceutical Sector involving National Laboratories, Academic Institutions and Private

and Public Sector Industry, providing soft loans for encouraging commercialization of indigenous technologies, etc. to ensure that india's efforts to compete in the world markets in cutting edge areas in science and engineering are sustained consistent with the requirement of globalization and national priorities. The Government has mechanisms to assess the trends in global R&D excellence and will continue to strengthen such areas in National R&D and Educational Institutions to enable these to remain globally competitive.

Early warning system for Tsunami

3144. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had made an announcement to indigenously build the early warning system for Tsunami;

(b) if so, the amount of money earmarked for this plan; and

(c) the progress made so far in developing this system?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The Government is setting up on its own, an early Warning System for Tsunami and Storm Surges in Indian Ocean at the total cost of Rs. 125 crores with the following components:

- installation of tsunami warning sensors close to the ocean bottom at appropriate locales in the Indian Ocean, with real time connectivity;
- Tide guage and data buoys networking to validate arrival of tsunami waves at the coast;
- strengthening of the existing seismological network to indicate, near real time occurrence of tsunamigenic earthquakes;
- Modelling of the inundation scenarios for the entire coast and mapping of potential risk areas;
- collection of information, analysis and generating status advisories.

A centre would be set up at Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh on a 24x7 basis. The system is scheduled to be operational by September, 2007. The earmarked fund for the Tenth Plan is Rs.115 crores.

(c) An interim early warning mechanism is presently operational at INCOIS, Hyderabad on 24x7 basis. Under this project 11 tide guages have